

inches in height, but branching profusely, with stems varying in size from 1-16 to 1-4 inch in diameter. The roots exhibited little tendency to branch in the downward course, though in some instances dividing once or twice. If lateral fibers were developed they had mostly disappeared.—R. T. MORGAN, *Wheaton, DuPage County, Illinois.*

The Postage on Botanical Specimens.—In his new "*Flora of Washington.*" Mr. Ward states that "the law forbids the sending of labels, of which any part is written, as third-class matter, and it is necessary to give each label a temporary number and put with the specimen a corresponding printed figure (cut out of a calendar) and to send the labels in a letter. * * * A very sensible decision was made by Postmaster-General Key that scientific labels, bills of lading, etc., if they contained nothing irrelevant, might pass with the specimens. This ruling has since been reversed as not in harmony with the spirit of the law." The writer adds that he "called personally at the Post-Office Department (Dec. 6, 1881), and was officially assured of the correctness of the statements herein made" (p. 234).

At the instance of some of my students, I applied by letter to the Department, April 25, 1882, for information as to the present ruling, receiving in reply a printed order, dated Feb. 21, 1881, signed by Postmaster-General Maynard. The part relating to botanical specimens reads as follows: "It is ordered that Section 232, Postal Regulations, be revoked, and in lieu thereof the following order is made: Mailable matter of the first-class shall embrace all matter wholly or partially in writing, except as herein provided. * * * The exceptions are as follows: * * * 7. Upon matter of the fourth-class the sender may write his own name and address preceded by the word 'from,' and also the number and names of the articles enclosed. He may also write upon or attach to any such articles, by tag or label, a mark or number, name or letter, for purpose of identification." The italicised words, not italicised in the order, were underscored in the copy sent to me. A knowledge of this fact may spare exchanging botanists some annoyance.—WM. TRELEASE, Madison, Wis.

Ferns of Iowa.—Miss MARY E. WOOD reports the following ferns collected by her on the Makoqueta River, about fifty miles west of Dubuque, Iowa:

Asplenium felix-femina, *A. thelypteroides*, *A. angustifolium*, *Aspidium Goldianum*, *A. Thelypteris*, *Adiantum pedatum*, *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*, *Cystopteris bulbifera*, *C. fragilis*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, *Osmunda Claytoniana*, *Phegopteris hexagonoptera*, *Botrychium ternatum*, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, *P. gracilis*, *Pteris aquilina*, *Struthiopteris Germanica*.